



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

60 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2009

Volume 59 Number 5

www.phil-mont.org

May 2009

A blast from the past for Phil-Mont's 60th anniversary



**Paul Bohlander, W3VVS, operates
"World's Smallest Mobile"**

Picture appeared in CQ magazine, April 1953

**It's May already! Mother's Day is on the 10th
Memorial Day is on the 25th**

Ready for Field Day? Carmen is! *See page 7*

And articles by Bob, W3NE and our most senior member, Rollie, K3PWG!

<p><i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p>Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225</p> <p>Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862</p> <p>Labels and mailing: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH</p> <p>Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p>	<p>Directors:</p> <p>W3AOK (09) WA3KIO (09) N3XKE (09) N3MT (10) KB2ERL (10) KB3IV (10) NS3K (A)</p>	<p>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Webmistress: Maggie K3XS k3xs@arrl.net</p> <p>For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net</p>
	<p>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater 	

<p>Committees</p> <p>Archives: NG3P Audit: NS3K Awards: open Blurb folding: WB3KOJ & WB3KOH Directory: WB3KOJ</p>	<p>DX: N3MT Emerg. Coord: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: K3XS Membership: N3XKE Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM</p>	<p>Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU</p>	<p>TVI: W3VVS VE Program: NS3K W3AA Trustee: WU3I Welcome: N3UBV Youth: N3MT</p>
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All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128**
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at

Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on EchoLink through WU3I-L

W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS

The Officers

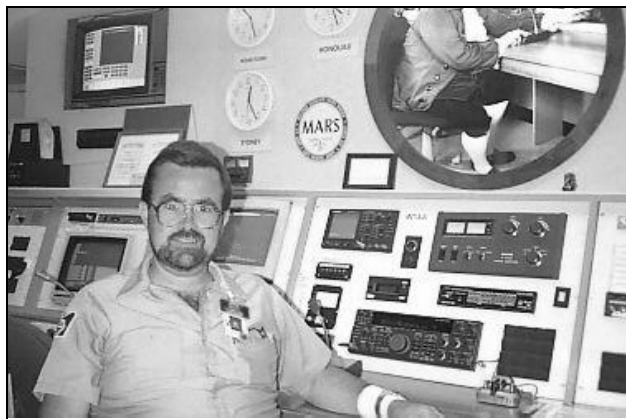
President: WU3I Steve Hoch, 546 Monastery Ave, Philadelphia PA 19128 wu3i@arrl.net

Vice President: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net

Secretary: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com

Treasurer: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net

Asst. Treasurer: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez...

Aloha from WU3I/KH6. By the time you all read this I will be basking on the beach in Hawaii. My oldest boy is getting married May 2 and Susan and I are going to try to live it up in the 50th State. I will be stopping by on Echolink now and then but will not be trying to check-in on Sunday mornings as the 6 hour time difference would require me to get up at 3:30 AM to do so – *not happenin!* The May program is on Field Day and we hope to see your face in the place. Contact Carmen, KE3QB, to register for Field Day. Thanks to Gene N3XKE for getting right on the Field Day shirts (I already have mine!) See ya at the Meeting.

de Steve, WU3I



On Thursday, April 23, we had a total of 3 candidates take a total of 5 elements. We ended up with 2 new Generals and one new Extra.

The VE's were Jim, NS3K, Jack WA3BXH, Joe N3UGI and doing *his first session ever* was ED, KB3IV.

de Jim, NS3K

**May Birthdays**

05 Paul Policarpo - N3PP
 17 Herb Scott - N3OLK
 28 Peggy Kaufmann - KB3DID
 29 Maggie Leber - K3XS
 30 Bill Chedeville - W3GQD

Directory Changes

Please note the following changes to the 2009 Directory:

- Drop the "j" at the end of W3CJB's first name
- Add a "P" to NG3 (Gwen Patton's call)
- KB3RPZ is now N3TWO

Membership Stats

At press time P.M.R.C. has:

88 Full paid members
 8 Family members
 2 Youth members (under 17)
 2 Honorary members
 3 Pending members

From the Secretary

PMRC BoD Meeting – April 1st 2009

President Steve, WU3I, opened the meeting at 2005 hours. Attending the meeting were Bill, W3AOK; Ed, KB3IV; Eric, N3QV; Dick, W3RM; Al, W3STW and Gene N3XKE.

Dick, Club Treasurer, presented a written report outlining first quarter 2009 Club income and disbursements; the board accepted the report.

Ed, Net Control Chairman, reported the schedule of net control operators is working, but Ed is still looking for more volunteers.

Bill, Repeater Chairman reports the repeater is working satisfactorily. Poor signal reception reports by repeater users are perhaps mostly attributable to a poor signal path. Bill will check out the antenna system as soon as the weather improves.

Membership Chairman Gene reports he has three applications for membership: KB3STS, KB3SJT and KB3SJV.

Old Business: Al, Secretary, briefly discussed the idea of having a technical session during the Club's general meetings. The Board is looking for cost and construction details for a simple PSK31 kit.

Ed discussed the sixtieth anniversary luncheon; the idea is still under development, details are coming ... stay tuned

New Business: shall we get involved with the 150th anniversary of the Philadelphia Zoo?

PMRC General Meeting – April 8th 2009

President Steve, WU3I opened the meeting at 1940 hours. Steve extended a greeting to all and then called for committee reports.

Rick, ND3B, Blurb Editor, reported that he was very happy get the articles about the area radio stores in the mid fifties. He is asking for more

articles from the membership. Rick asks that you get your articles to him by the 20th of the month.

Gene, N3XKE, Membership Chair, reports he has three new applications for Club membership.

Steve reminds us that Net Control Chairman Ed, KB3IV, is looking for volunteers for the Club's Sunday morning 2, 10 and 75-meter nets.

Treasurer Dick, W3RM, reported that the Club's finances are in good shape and that the Club has fulfilled its 2009 commitment to the Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR).

Carmen, Field Day Chairman, reporting on field day activities asked for members seeking to be a Band Captain to contact him. Dick, W3RM, and Mike, N3MT, are operating 40 meter CW and Eric, N3QV, is operating 20 meter SB. Carmen and Gene, N3XKE are taking Field Day "Tee Shirt" orders. Carmen is also taking requests for Field Day ns. Stay tuned to the W3QV repeater and *Blurb*.

Many thanks to Steve for the refreshment table setup. If you need top grade antenna rope for guying and stringing up your latest antenna project see Steve.

No further business to conduct, at 2035 hours Steve turned the meeting over to Program Chairman, Eric, N3QV. Eric presented a film, "On Board the RMS Queen Mary with Radio Station W6RO.

de Al W3STW, PMRC Secretary

Calling all Elmers...

Starting this month I've added a feature for new hams and could use your help. If you're available to help beginners please let me know so I can print your contact information in the Blurb.

And if you have a story from the "good ole days" that you'd like to share please call or write me. You don't have to be a great writer, you just need a good story!

The following Radio Amateurs have applied for membership in Phil-Mont:

Family Membership-

John R. Simon - KB3SJS "John"
 1942 Lafayette Road
 Lansdale, PA 19446-5519
 Cell phone: 215-880-6148
 Email: jrsimon@email.com
 DOB: 09/23/--
 License Class: Technician Expires: 03/04/2019
 Occupation: Biologist

Keiko O. Simon - KB3SJT "Keiko"
 1942 Lafayette Road
 Lansdale, PA 19446
 DOB: 08/20/--
 License Class: Technician Expires: 03/04/2019
 Occupation: Biologist

Youth Membership-

John J. Drenzo, Jr. - KB3SJV "John"
 902 Noble Street
 Norristown, PA 19401-3660
 Email: kb3sjv@gmail.com
 DOB: 06/05/1994
 License Class: Technician Expires: 03/04/2019
 Occupation: High School Student

The Radio Stores series continues...

CONSOLIDATED RADIO

Ham Nirvana

by Bob Thomas, W3NE

The full name of the store in this narrative was probably Consolidated Radio Company, but nobody called it that – it was just “Consolidated” to everybody who went there. Situated in the 600-block of Arch Street, the store was a short walk from the 5th Street PRT Market Street subway



Photo de author - Bob, W3NE

station, accessible from most parts of the city for a 7½¢ fare and a free transfer. Outside, Consolidated was anything but inviting: drab paint, smudged show window, and motley display of disparate radio items, typically a faded License Manual, 10,000-volt variable condenser, dud 304TL, and a decrepit McElroy bug (of which more later).

Anticipation escalated as you approached the front door, entering into a serene, dimly lit world of unadulterated amateur radio. In keeping with the dolorous exterior, the dusty floor boards creaked quietly with every step. Behind the sales counter, nine times out of ten Jerry Mathis would be found either on the telephone discussing the last (or next) DXSS or sitting at a small bench assembling one of his famous Cool Kilowatt finals for a client. Depending on the seriousness of Jerry's preoccupation and the DX status of the customer,

Jerry would either wait on new arrivals or ignore them.

In the latter case it was left to George Hall, W3BMS, proprietor of Consolidated, to leave his mysterious lair at the back of the store. George always sauntered behind the counter toward his customer, each black hair combed-down precisely in place and wearing his perennial blue wool sweater, half-buttoned closed in front. There was always a friendly greeting – in my case “Hello Bobby, what can we do for you”? Casual conversation always followed for several minutes, then eventually the “want list” was produced and George would disappear back to the stockroom to pick out the items required.

In the meantime, Jerry might be roused from his preoccupation to continue the conversation, perhaps with an intimation that Frankford Radio Club was always on the lookout for DX contestors to strengthen their rivalry with Potomac Valley RC. Jerry was an uberpersonality in W3-land: SCM, top or near-top in the DXCC standings, and always knowledgeable of the latest local, ARRL and FCC news. His fame extended back well before a 1938 RCA Tube Department advertisement in *QST* and *Radio* magazines featured a photo of the young W3BES with a glowing testimonial by Jerry for RCA’s then-new 813 tube, which he had employed in a contest winning final amp.

When George returned, usually with every part required – no matter how obscure – he would begin writing up the sales slip, allowing the customer an opportunity to browse among juicy sale items. These were stored on a table in dusty gray plywood bins about eight inches on a side, each containing things you wanted but didn’t necessarily need (at least at the time). I was able to pick up two gorgeous National AN Velvet Vernier dials for only \$1.50, one going immediately into a two meter tunable converter the other, forty years later, on the panel of a 1929 TPTG 80M breadboard transmitter for bandspread control. At one time those bins yielded small split-stator variable condensers with a ratchet shaft detent at 35¢ each; a lucky buy of a handful wound up in a VHF wavemeter, a push-push 2M transmitter doubler, and various other

transmitters. There could be ceramic sockets, antenna relays, mica transmitting condensers and an assortment of transformers of both known and unknown heritage. One that still comes to mind was a nifty brand new in-the-box Thordarson 35-watt modulation transformer (fondled but never used).

A few weeks after graduating from college in 1950, I was able to save enough money from my \$55/week first job to buy a Hallicrafters S-40 receiver, a rehash of their prewar S-20R. I placed an order with Consolidated, but the country still had not fully recovered from the war, and with the model change, delivery time for my receiver was quoted as “three to five weeks”. This was definitely not a “click your mouse and enter your credit card number” instant purchase of today. I eventually got a call from George letting me know the receiver had arrived, so on my way home from work on Howard Street (when you could walk there without being mugged or shot), I picked up the S-40. Riding home with it on the subway, I could hardly contain myself, and after a hurried dinner it was unpacked and on the air, receiving code practice transmissions from W1AW on 3555 kc. By the end of that summer I was able to pass the FCC test for a Class B (13 WPM) license, and from then on I finally felt I really belonged at Consolidated!

An earlier reference to the McElroy bug in the show window illustrated George Hall’s flexibility toward young hams. Our own Dick Moll, then W3PDJ, had his eye on that key for a long time before finally mustering the courage to ask George if he could get it for a lowball price. Now, at that time T.R. McElroy was famous as a super high-speed code operator, having won his last national contest in 1939, copying at 77 wpm, so there was a certain cache associated with his commercial products. Undaunted by that fame, the young Richard asked George if he would sell the bug for \$5.00. George acceded, so one more ham became a hot CW operator and Consolidated garnered another lifetime supporter. Incidentally, Dick still has that venerable key, now possibly valued at near 100 times what he paid George.

A valuable perk for shopping at Consolidated was consistent availability of the latest free issue of GE

Ham News, published semimonthly by the GE Tube Department. Each issue ran eight to twelve pages with construction topics like SSB adaptors, VHF equipment and high power HF linears as well as little gadgets and tutorials, like how to test a transmitting tube. An early issue described the *R-9er*, a wideband preamp for upper HF bands that was just the thing to pep up my S-40 on 10M. Another interesting unit I made was a 6-Meter transceiver in a 5x6x9 box. Of course Consolidated benefited from the selling parts needed by builders of *Ham News* gear.

Like all the stores catering to builders, Consolidated faced a shrinking market as turnkey Asian products infiltrated amateur radio and most hams either lost interest in making their own equipment or were new to the game and didn't know how. For better or worse I was not around when George closed the store, probably some time in the late 'sixties. Would I buy a receiver today at full list price and then wait two months for delivery if I were able to recapture the ethos of those old radio stores of Philadelphia? To quote a well known female politician from Alaska, "You betcha"!

Sic transit gloria mundi.

I was delighted to get this contribution from our most senior member. Thanks Rollie, stay well! – ed.

W3TKQ/W3AA and Navy Mars 1971 to 8/5/2000

De W3PWG/NNN0ARF

The station had been moved from the former location in the electrical room at the south end of the second floor to the new electrical room at the north end of the second floor. At that time all four of the regular operators were also members of Navy Mars – the director for region one was located at the Navy yard, with a station and office in the administration building and I often stopped in there when I was at the commissary or on business with him. Asked about getting a Mars license for the station and he said it would be approved, so I

brought it up at a Philmont meeting and got approval from the club. We became NNN0QPN and held it for more than twenty years. There was a noon time net that we checked into and that was followed by a New Jersey net that we also checked into quite often. During the seventies and eighties we did handle quite a bit of traffic, but with the advent of email that diminished to almost nothing except administrative Mars messages. I was in Army Mars from 1956 to 1961 and in Navy Mars from its beginning in January 1963 to a few years ago, but have not been on since then. I am the oldest member of the Navy Amateur Radio Club and also of the Tincan Sailors Radio Club, both of which meet on 7.245. The operators at the time we started were Sam Moskowitz K3RTR, Frank Whitten K3TEF, and Fred Fowler WA3AAL. All are now silent keys except me, and I will be 99 on August 5th, 2009.

Rolland E. Madara
W3PWG/NNN0ARF
3/23/09

Got Field Day questions? Carmen's got answers!

Field Day 2009 is on the 4th full weekend in June. This year it is on June 27th and 28th and begins at 1800 UTC Saturday and ends at 2100 UTC Sunday. First off, there are no significant changes in the rules for this year. The objective is to work as many stations as possible on any Amateur Band except for 60, 30, 17 and 12 meter bands. We will be operating Class "A" and our location will be Site B of the Ridge Road Tenting Area, which is at the Fort Washington State Park off of Militia Hill Road and Route 73 West in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. A map of directions to the park should be in this issue of the blurb. You may also *Google* or *Mapquest* the park for directions. Now let's go over some things in general. An inactive licensee, an operator from last year, or a non-licensed operator under the guide of a control operator may operate the GOTA Station. This station may operate on any of the Amateur Bands except those listed above at any one time with only

one transmitted signal at a time. Keep in mind that this station must not interfere with other stations on the same band. For every 20 QSO's, we receive 20 points for a maximum of 100 points per operator. The total max allowed is 500 points, which is 100 points per operator equal to 5 operators. The presence of a GOTA Coach will double the points for every 20 QSO's. Scoring for radio contacts have remained the same as last year and also have the bonus points and our multiplier. Youth participation is worth 20 points per youth equal to a max of 100 points for a total of 5 youths. There is an Educational Bonus of 100 points, which is earned by demonstrating an Amateur/Electronic activity the entire Field Day weekend.

NOW THE IMPORTANT STUFF!! If you are staying over the weekend, you must bring your own sleeping accommodations, toiletries, personal effects and anything that will make your stay a comfortable one. If you are a **BANDCAPTAIN**, you should consider bringing your **RADIO, MICROPHONE, CW KEYS, POWER SUPPLY, OUTLET STRIP, TABLE, CHAIR, TABLE LAMP, ANTENNA** (if you intend to use a vertical or dipole), **ANTENNA TUNER, EXTENSION CORD, GROUND WIRE, GROUND ROD** (which you may not be able to pull out from the ground), **THE MANUAL OR CHEAT SHEET FOR YOUR RADIO IF YOU INTEND TO HAVE OTHERS USE YOUR RADIO, PEN, PENCIL, PAPER AND A LAPTOP WITH A USB PORT IF YOU HAVE ONE.** If you rely on PMRC Field Day computers, you will be running the logging software off of a floppy disk, **YES, I DID SAY FLOPPY DISK!** All other operators are more than welcome to bring your own radios if it will make you more comfortable to work contacts over the weekend. If you have your own Coax to go with your setup, please bring it. The Field Day trailer will have certain items loaded in it for use during the weekend. Our logging software is the **WR9R "KISS"** software. I set the file up, you run it and away we go. Each disk or program will be set up for the band you are working. Also remember that your name must be on the **CHOWDOWN LIST** so that you may partake of our fine food from Chef's menu. This includes those staying the weekend and/or the whole day of Saturday or Sunday. Most

of the setup is done on Saturday morning. The earlier you arrive, the sooner you will be done and have a chance to test everything and relax before start time. Those who wish to come on Friday night and do a partial setup are more than welcome to do so but let us know so someone can unlock the gate for you if it is after dark. There will be people staying overnight on Friday, I am one of them, which means that our setup will be safe over the weekend. Please remember to listen to the weather for the weekend so you may pack and dress accordingly and be prepared for anything. Well I am sure I have not covered everything, so, if anyone has any questions or comments, you can reach me by the phone number in the member directory or by email at MY3GUMBAS@VERIZON.NET. Hope to see some new faces this year.

de Carmen, KE3QB, Field Day Chairman 2009

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New this month –

Beginner's Corner

... or ...

Things your mother never told you about ham radio.

I'd like to welcome all the new hams to the hobby and provide some - hopefully- helpful information for you. Many of our names on page 2 have an email address and you can write to us with your questions. You can also call these members if you prefer to telephone:

Dick, W3RM - 215-659-4488

Steve, WU3I - 215-483-7306

Rick, ND3B - 215-908-7225

What's this about PLs and offsets?

A repeater takes in your signal, strengthens it and sends it back out in near real-time. To do this in highly populated areas where there may be many repeaters and overlapping or competing RF signals, it uses a kind of password which is the CTCSS.

CTCSS stands for **C**ontinuous **T**one **C**oded **S**quelch **S**ystem; it is a generic abbreviation and is used to minimize co-channel interference.

PL is the Motorola Abbreviation for "Private Line".
QC is the RCA abbreviation for "Quiet Channel".
CG is the General Electric abbreviation for
"Channel Guard".
CTCSS is often referred to as a "PL" tone.

Many repeaters require the use of a PL tone for access. The frequency which the user transmits to access a repeater is the Repeater CTCSS Encode Frequency.

Contrary to popular belief, the requirement of a PL tone to access a repeater does *not* mean it is a closed repeater. The PL is frequently used to preclude interference in high RF environments and lessen what is called kerchunking (keying the repeater and not identifying yourself. If you're testing, just say so along with your call.) In other words, your new VHF/UHF rig or HT will need to be set up to transmit the PL tone of the repeater you want to access. You need this info along with the offset, i.e. the repeater input frequency, to use the repeater. Fortunately the offset is pretty standard and built in to newer radios. (600KHz for 2m and 5MHz for 70cm.) Once these settings are locked in you can forget about them for that repeater.
(Some info came from metrocor.net)

**Stop by 28.480 any night at 2000L and meet Kurt,
NN3C and other local 10M enthusiasts.**

***Sunday morning Net Control stations still
needed.***

Ed, KB3IV, awaits your call!

When all else fails...Hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, and vandalism?

Sat April 11, 2009 Phila Inquirer

SAN FRANCISCO - Forget, for a moment, computer viruses and sophisticated cybercrimes. A hacksaw and a few other simple tools were probably all it took for someone to sever eight fiber-optic cables in Silicon Valley this week, knocking out cell-phone, landline, and Internet service. The attack was a reminder of the fragility of the telecommunications networks that are increasingly important in our lives. The cables were cut early Thursday at four sites in San Jose and nearby San Carlos, wiping out telecom service to tens of thousands of homes and businesses. Some people were still able to make local calls, but 911 service was lost. Sprint Nextel Corp. said one of its cables, which provided Internet access for large business customers, was cut, too. Sprint was able to reroute traffic over other lines within a few hours, spokeswoman Crystal Davis said. Phone and Internet service from Verizon Communications Inc. also was disrupted for about 50,000 households because the company uses AT&T's "long-haul" telecommunications lines in the area.

*And that's why they need ham radio
operators folks.*

W3AA/60 needs HF operators

*Contact any club officer - see page 2 - to select your
month*

For Sale:

Double Braided Dacron Dipole Rope now in stock. 3/16 diameter. Black in color. Will cut to requested length. High stretch resistance. Strength: Excellent, Resistance to abrasion: Excellent, Resistance to chemicals: Very good, Acids: Good. Sunlight resistance: Excellent, Shock load: Excellent. Does not float. Seal ends with heat. Resistant to mildew. Breaking strength 630 Pounds. \$0.14 per foot

Please feel free to forward to other clubs of which you are a member.

Also:

Icom IC-746 factory stock with manual, power cord and Icom SM6 Microphone. &700.00

Ameritron AL-811H amplifier Factory Stock with copy of manual. New \$900.00 Sale \$650.00

Contact Steve, WU3I, at 215-605-6074 or wu3i@arrl.net for any of the items above.

May at PMRC...

- 3rd Sunday – W3STW NCS
 6th Wed - Board of Directors Meeting
 10th Sunday - N3OWM NCS
 Mother's Day
 13th Wed - General Membership Meeting
 17th Sunday - KB3IV NCS
 24th Sunday – K3XS NCS
 Memorial Day
 28th Thur - VE test session
 31st Sunday – N3QV NCS

And don't forget the **ARES** net every Sunday night at 2100L on the club repeater.

Larry, K3HWE, wants to hear from ***you!***

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First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
 641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

The Blurb